

Commemorative Plaque Nomination Form

May 1990

Date:.....

To:  
Commemorative Plaque Sub-Committee  
The Institution of Engineers, Australia  
11 National Circuit  
BARTON ACT 2600

From.....Engineering Heritage Committee,  
Sydney Division, I. E. Aust.  
.....  
.....  
.....

(Nominating Division or Branch)

The following work is nominated for an \*Historic Engineering Marker/National Engineering Landmark award:

Name of work .....The 1893 Cowra Bridge.....

Location, including address and map grid reference if a fixed work .....A preserved truss standing  
.....on the western bank of the Lachlan River, Cowra, adjacent the 1986 conc bridge.  
.....  
.....

Owner .....Cowra Shire Council.....

In support of the nomination the following information is provided:

**For an Historic Engineering Marker (HEM)**

(1) Proposed wording on HEM# .....see attached.....

(2) Justification - please make data as complete as possible.# This design by J. A. McDonald pioneered composite timber/iron construction in NSW, later refined and more extensively used by E. M. DeBurgh and Harvey Dare for road bridges in NSW.

**~~For a National Engineering Landmark (NEL)~~**

~~(1) Date of construction (or other significant dates).~~

~~(2) Names of key professional personnel associated with the work.#~~

~~(3) Historic engineering significance of the work.#~~

~~(4) Comparable or similar works (a) in Australia (b) overseas: #~~

~~(5) Features or characteristics setting the work above other engineering works: #~~

~~(6) Contribution towards the development of engineering and/or  
the nation: #~~

### For all Nominations

The following documentation is attached in support of the nomination: see attached  
(List all documents, photographs, etc, and enclose black and photographs).

The nomination has been discussed with the owner of the work who has indicated

.....  
Cowra Shire Council approved the nomination and wording on 7 May 1990

.....  
(Include statement regarding owner's attitude)

A copy of this submission has been sent to the Secretary of the ..... National Committee for  
..... Engineering Heritage

I. E. Aust. Head Office, Canberra.  
Division at .....  
(For completion by a nominating body other than a Division)

In the event of this nomination being approved the nominating body will organise an suitable presentation/  
unveiling ceremony.

E. G. Trueman

.....  
(Chairman of Nominating Committee)

I. G. Bowie

.....  
(Secretary of Nominating Committee)

\* Delete as appropriate

# Where there is insufficient space, attach additional papers


 IEAust  
Logo

# HISTORIC ENGINEERING MARKER

## COWRA BRIDGE TRUSS

THIS SPAN WAS ONE OF THREE BUILT ACROSS THE LACHLAN RIVER IN 1893 TO A DESIGN BY J. A. MC DONALD. IT WAS THE FIRST COMPOSITE TIMBER/IRON TRUSS IN NEW SOUTH WALES AND WAS THE LARGEST OF ITS TYPE IN AUSTRALIA. THE BUSY NORTH-SOUTH INLAND ROAD TRAFFIC USED IT FOR 93 YEARS. ITS PRESERVATION WAS A JOINT PROJECT OF THE COWRA SHIRE COUNCIL AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES DURING 1989-90.

*72 words*

What is it ?     A composite truss bridge

Who did it?     J. A. McDonald, Bridge engineer PWD (NSW)

Engg significance?     First composite truss in NSW and largest of its type.

Social impact?     Important river crossing for nearly 100 years.